

# 10 PROTECTING THE SCENIC BEAUTY OF YOUR WOODLAND

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. This is as true for your woodland as it is for everything else. Some woodland owners prefer the uniform neatness of pine trees planted in rows, while others enjoy the random effects of varying sizes and species in a stand that is more natural-appearing. There is a richness that the changing seasons bring as colors change and texture is added to the landscape. There is no simple formula to measure the “visual quality” of your woodland. However, there are some simple things that you can do to protect and enhance the scenic beauty of your woodland.

You can manage your woodland to provide a maximum of privacy and a minimum of intrusions from the outside world. Locate your driveway and other entrance roads to limit the amount of noise and traffic you can see from your home or hiking trails. They don’t have to be straight. Let them curve through your woodland by following the natural contour of the land.

You can manage your woodland for a variety of species. Remember, each species is distinctive. They each have their own shape and branching pattern; the color of their bark and leaves or needles are unique as well as the color of their foliage in the fall. Also, you can manage for a variety of sizes. Manage for a mixture of trees of different heights and diameters. Breaking up the sightlines in your woods will create a pleasing vista, and helps you to see the blend of shape and colors that are there.

You can landscape your woodland to create screens to protect your privacy, limit noise, and decrease dust from the road.

- Plant a mixture of native trees and shrubs using both leaf and needle trees.
- Arrange them so they overlap with surrounding vegetation.
- Choose some plants that flower in the spring and others that have bright colors in the fall.
- Make sure there are some evergreens so you can enjoy their protection even after the leaves fall from the other trees.

You can also manage your woodland to enhance wildlife habitat and create wildlife viewing opportunities.

- You can manage to create sheltered areas where a variety of wildlife can rest and eat.
- You can manage to insure there are areas that provide cover from predators so they can rest and eat in peace.
- You can also plant native trees and shrubs to create a woodland buffet of seeds, fruits, and nuts to attract a variety of different wildlife species throughout the year.

These are some simple things that you can do to protect and enhance the scenic beauty of your woodland. To learn more about protecting the visual quality of your woodland, we recommend reading **Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines – Chapter 4, Visual Quality** as well as University of Wisconsin Extension’s publication G3762, **“Woodland Visions – Appreciating and Managing Forests for Scenic Beauty.”**

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